



NEWS RELEASE

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FORMER EAST BATON ROUGE POLICE OFFICER GUILTY OF SEX CRIME

Man tried to meet with 14-year old in attempt to have sexual relations

LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today that **KARL DAVID KRETSER**, age 43, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was tried this week by a federal jury before United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi and was found guilty of using a facility in interstate commerce to attempt to coerce a minor to engage in criminal sexual acts.

Kretser was indicted in June 2006 following an investigation by the Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

In May and June of 2006, an Agent of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, while in Lake Charles, Louisiana, began communicating with KARL KRETSER in a Louisiana regional online chatroom. From the outset, KRETSER believed that he was communicating with a 14-year old girl living in Lake Charles. He initiated sexually explicit conversations and sent the undercover agent pornographic images of

himself engaging in sexual acts with other minor children.

During the online chats, KRETSER asked that the undercover agent posing as a 14-year old female meet with him so that they could engage in sex. The meeting was to be at the Cortana Mall in Baton Rouge. Ultimately, KRETSER met with the undercover agent at the Cortana Mall, and was arrested. After being arrested he admitted that he had engaged in sexually explicit chat with the “girl” and came to pick her up.

During trial, KRETSER claimed that he was only fantasizing about having sex, and that he had no intention of actually engaging in sex with a minor. He also claimed that he did not think he was speaking to an actual child. The jury deliberated 15 minutes before finding KRETSER guilty. After the guilty verdict, KRETSER was immediately detained and remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.

KRETSER is a former East Baton Rouge homicide detective who was working as the head of security at the Cortana Mall in Baton Rouge at the time he committed this heinous offense.

Sentencing is currently scheduled for May 15, 2007. **KRETSER faces a minimum of five years up to a maximum of 30 years federal imprisonment.** Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system

This case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Childhood Initiative in partnership with the Office of the Louisiana Attorney General. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Luke Walker.

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